
DRAFT

REGULAR MEETING – MONDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2010
PLAZA CONFERENCE ROOM AT CITY HALL – 500 CASTRO STREET
6:30 P.M.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m. by Chairperson Bryant.

2. ROLL CALL

Members Present: Committee member Tom Means and Chairperson Ronit Bryant. Committee member Laura Macias arrived at 6:45 p.m.

Staff Members Present: Michael A. Fuller, Public Works Director; Linda Forsberg, Business and Internal Services Manager; Jacqueline Solomon, Deputy Public Works Director; and Helen Kim, Project Manager.

Public Present: Five members of the public were present.

3. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC—None.

4. MINUTES APPROVAL

Motion—M/S Means/Bryant—Carried 2-0; Macias absent—Approve the minutes of the August 17, 2010 meeting.

5. NEW BUSINESS

5.1 HIGH-SPEED RAIL AUTHORITY OFFICE HOURS AND TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP (TWG) MEETINGS

The Deputy Public Works Director stated Mid-Peninsula High-Speed Rail (HSR) Station meetings were held in Mountain View on September 13 and in Palo Alto on October 25; Redwood City is still gathering information and will have a community meeting on November 3. Only the City of Palo Alto has taken a formal action not to be considered for an HSR station. The Deputy Public Works Director continued to explain the monthly HSR office hours included a joint meeting with the County, VTA and Mountain View to discuss solutions at key intersections of Castro Street, Rengstorff Avenue and

San Antonio Road. At the Technical Working Group meeting, the concept of value-added criteria (a value on elements other than the least expensive option) was discussed and methodology for noise and visual impacts was presented and will be posted on the Authority's web site. The Deputy Public Works Director and Business and Internal Services Manager also attended the BART construction tour last week; staff can arrange for another tour with City officials and staff if interested. Last week, the Authority staff indicated the DEIR/DEIS may not be released on December 31, 2010 and could be pushed into 2011.

Chairperson Bryant asked about the methodology of evaluating scenic routes/views. The Business and Internal Services Manager responded the Authority will be reviewing the City General Plan for scenic routes and applying the Federal Rail Administration methodology for impacts on degradation, loss of visuals and new light/glare/shadow sources.

A Committee member stated there must be noise level information from other countries and asked if the City should insist on getting this from the Authority. The Deputy Public Works Director responded the Authority only provided technical information, such as Federal Rail Administration sound charts and Caltrain sound criteria, at the TWG meeting and announced they were still working on getting the sound information.

A Committee member asked if Mountain View could get a soundwall as sound mitigation for the at-grade option similar to the one being built for San Diego's at-grade train. The Deputy Public Works Director responded the Authority offered examples of soundwalls from Europe.

5.2 POLICYMAKER WORKING GROUP (PWG) MEETING

Chairperson Bryant stated there was no Policymaker Working Group meeting in October. At the September PWG, the group started to talk about Caltrain's request for phasing the HSR project, but it was shut down by the CEO of California High-Speed Rail Authority (CHSRA). Bob Doty did discuss the concept of value-added criteria to convince the CHSRA Board not to pursue the cheapest alternative. Chairperson Bryant questioned the "value" to whom.

Chairperson Bryant explained before going to Item 5.3, she would like to provide an update on the Peninsula Cities Coalition (PCC). She stated Brisbane was just added to the PCC, now consisting of six cities. She explained she talked to the Redwood City city council who is working on their "value-added criteria" and still looking at a possible HSR station in downtown where the city's General Plan calls for 8- to 10-story buildings.

5.3 LETTERS REGARDING CALIFORNIA HIGH-SPEED RAIL PROJECT

Chairperson Bryant asked if City staff had the skills and time to review the HSR DEIR/DEIS. The Public Works Director responded staff and consultant urban designer could do an analysis and also bring in additional engineers if needed. Although staff cannot anticipate what will be presented, the information is assumed to be fairly general at this stage of the project. The City's consultant, Rick Williams, has subconsultant engineers and sound engineers.

Chairperson Bryant stated Palo Alto is very concerned about property values decreasing as a result of the HSR project. She explained the CHSRA Board will be meeting on November 4 to decide on the criteria for selecting the segment to be funded for construction, and it appears the Central Valley will likely be selected.

The Committee discussed and recommended the following four letters for City Council approval: (1) CHSRA Board requesting a minimum of 90-day review period for the DEIR/DEIS; (2) Congresswoman Eshoo requesting support for additional Federal funds for the HSR project (use City of San Mateo letter as template and add tunnel alternative); (3) Caltrain encouraging to continue leading the efforts on HSR matters in Mountain View and the Peninsula; and (4) VTA requesting they support Caltrain's efforts on the HSR matters in Mountain View and the Peninsula.

Public Comments

A resident stated the Committee may consider looking at soft soundwalls installed in Holland with wide open steel mesh and backfilled with compressed blocks as a better sound absorption solution than hard soundwalls. Plants can be planted, providing an attractive sound solution not seen anywhere else. Also, for the price of mitigating diesel engines in the trench for ventilation requirements, it would be cheaper to buy one or two electric freight engines.

A resident stated his calculations (using the chart distributed at the HSR TWG meeting) showed sound coming from a viaduct with partial soundwall was not much different than that from a trench. Also, he stated the Fremont BART tour revealed about 130' width is required for construction of four tracks in trench, two shoo-fly tracks and vehicle/staging access to both sides of trench.

The Government Affairs Coordinator of the Mountain View Chamber of Commerce announced Rod Diridon, Executive Director of Mineta Transportation Institute and CHSRA Board member, will make a presentation on the HSR project on Tuesday, November 2, 2010 at 12:00 noon.

6. COMMITTEE/STAFF COMMENTS, QUESTIONS AND REPORTS

Chairperson Bryant stated a train event will take place on Sunday, November 7, 2010, at the Burlingame train station. Burlingame set up poles to show the height of the proposed High-Speed Rail Project.

Chairperson Bryant stated she will not be able to attend the November 18 HSR PWG meeting because it conflicts with the ABAG Executive Board meeting. Committee member Macias volunteered to attend the PWG meeting.

7. SET DATE AND TIME FOR NEXT MEETING

The Committee will be polled for the next meeting.

8. CALENDAR

The Committee will be polled for a meeting to review the DEIR/DEIS.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

HK/5/PWK
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